

IN THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1-27. (Cancelled).

28. (Currently amended) A system for delivering a contraceptive device within a fallopian tube, the system comprising:

a catheter comprising:

an elongate tubular catheter body having a proximal portion adjacent a proximal end of the catheter body, a distal portion adjacent a distal end of the catheter body, and at least one lumen, wherein the proximal portion joins the distal portion, and the proximal portion further comprises a visualization marker where the proximal portion joins the distal portion to enhance visualization of a proximal-most end of the distal portion;

at least one coil disposed along the catheter body and encircling the lumen, wherein the whole of the coil is disposed nearer the distal end of the catheter body than the proximal end of the catheter body and extends along the distal portion and the proximal portion; and

wherein the distal portion has varying degrees of flexibility determined by constraining the coil within an outer layer of varying thickness or durometer rating along the length of the coil extending along the distal portion;

a contraceptive device releasably disposed at least partially within the lumen of the catheter near the distal portion; and

a deployment member in detachable engagement with the contraceptive device for deploying the contraceptive device from the catheter.

29. (Previously presented) A system as in claim 28, wherein the distal portion is more flexible towards the distal end of the catheter body than towards the proximal end of the catheter body.

30. (Previously presented) A system as in claim 29, wherein the distal portion comprises multiple layers, and the at least one coil comprises one of the layers.

31. (Previously presented) A system as in claim 30, wherein the multiple layers comprise:
an inner layer;
a middle layer; and
the outer layer.

32. (Original) A system as in claim 31, wherein the middle layer comprises the coil.

33. (Previously presented) A system as in claim 32, wherein the coil comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of nickel-titanium alloy, stainless steel, titanium and a polymer.

34. (Previously presented) A system as in claim 31, wherein the inner layer comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of polytetrafluoroethylene, etched polytetraflouoroethylene and a fluoropolymer.

35. (Original) A system as in claim 31, wherein the outer layer comprises at least one polyurethane material.

36. (Cancelled).

37. (Original) A system as in claim 29, wherein the distal portion comprises:
a first segment; and
at least a second segment distal to the first segment,
wherein the second segment is more flexible than the first segment.

38. (Original) A system as in claim 37, further comprising a third segment distal to the second segment, wherein the third segment is more flexible than the second segment.

39. (Previously presented) A system as in claim 29, wherein the distal portion comprises:
an inner layer;
a middle layer; and
the outer layer.

40. (Original) A system as in claim 39, wherein the middle layer comprises the coil and the outer layer comprises at least one polyurethane material.

41. (Original) A system as in claim 40, wherein the at least one polyurethane material comprises at least two polyurethane materials for conferring varying levels of flexibility to the

distal portion.

42. (Original) A system as in claim 40, wherein the at least one polyurethane material has an increasing amount of flexibility from a proximal end of the distal portion to the distal end of the distal portion.

43. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 28, wherein the outer layer is joined to the visualization marker ~~proximal portion of includes at least one visualization marker near the distal portion for enhancing visualization of a proximal most end of the distal portion.~~

44. (Currently amended) A system as in ~~claim 28 claim 43~~, wherein the visualization marker comprises at least one radiopaque material.

45.-54. (Cancelled)

55. (Previously presented) A system as in claim 28, further comprising a hydrophilic coating formed over the distal portion.

56. (Previously presented) A system as in claim 28, wherein the distal portion has varying degrees of flexibility determined by constraining the coil within an outer layer having varying durometer ratings along the length of the coil extending along the distal portion.

57. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 28, wherein the lumen extends through the proximal portion and the distal portion, and the lumen includes a tapered region where the lumen

extends through the proximal portion in which a diameter of the lumen is reduced from a first diameter to a second diameter.

58. (Canceled)

59. (Previously presented) A system as in claim 28, wherein the distal portion has varying degrees of flexibility determined by constraining the coil within an outer layer having varying thickness along the length of the coil extending along the distal portion.

60. (New) The system as in claim 57, wherein the coil encircles the second diameter of the lumen.

61. (New) A system as in claim 60, wherein the distal portion comprises:
an inner layer;
a middle layer comprising the coil; and
the outer layer.

62. (New) A system as in claim 61, wherein the inner layer defines the second diameter of the lumen.

63. (New) A system as in claim 28, wherein the outer layer is joined to the visualization marker.

64. (New) A system as in claim 63, wherein the distal portion is between about 1.2 cm and 2.0 cm in length.

65. (New) A system as in claim 64, wherein the elongate tubular catheter body is between about 40 cm and 60 cm in length.